



*"Preserving Public Lands for Public Use"*

## **2016 Annual Status**

In 2016 our biggest challenge was to expand our base, Representing more users, covering more types of projects and increasing the physical area we are working to protect.

In previous years, we have concentrated on stopping the loss of land in Sand Mountain Special Recreation Management Area. Several developments have helped us effectively postpone any threats on that area for the near future.

We have developed a positive relationship with the BLM's Saint George Field Office, and they assisted us in receiving a grant targeted to improve trails in the Washington county area. The first project funded by this grant was building the new "Ridgeline" trail. Ridgeline adds access to the trail system on Sand Mountain. OMIX-ADA provided \$2,500 towards the construction, and it was completed in early summer.

Our next project was to create both signage and electronic mapping for the Sand Mountain area. We created artistic metal signs marking the trailheads of 18 of the trails. We worked with Dixie 4 Wheel Drive to create "You Are Here" signs and smart phone maps covering the area. We are nearing complete on this project, with 32 signs installed on National Lands Day and maps of 20 trails on the map server.

We are beginning a project to install similar "You Are Here" signs on the most popular trails in Moab. Our money source for this project is a Moab Diner T-Shirt project which raised \$7,000 during Easter Jeep Safari. This project is very significant, as we added a Trustee in the Moab area to represent UPLA to the BLM office there. Our new trustee is Melissa Fischer.

We are also working on a project to build composting toilet facilities within the Sand Mountain trails area. Our expectation is to complete the first

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installation at the top of competition hill in early 2017. We identified 4 more sites where we eventually plan to have similar facilities would be practical.

